

a) DNA [having] comprising a nucleotide sequence from the 190th position to the 807th position of a nucleotide sequence represented in SEQ.ID NO. 1 [of Sequence Listing: or], and

b) DNA which hybridizes to DNA of a) under stringent conditions, and encodes a transcription factor capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein the characters are selected from the group consisting of the height of the plant and the length of an internode of the plant.

2. (Amended). A gene encoding a transcription factor which is selected from [i) or ii)] the group consisting of:

i) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence from the 1st position to the 206th position of an amino acid sequence represented in SEQ. ID NO. 2, [or] and

ii) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids of 1) are subjected to deletion, substitution, or addition, and being capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein said amino acid sequence includes CSFCKREFRSAQALGGHMNVH and has more than 37% of amino acid sequence homology in the full-length amino acid sequence compared with the amino acid sequence of i), and wherein the characters of a plant are selected from the group consisting of the height of the plant and the length of an internode of the plant.

3A. (Amended). A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps of:

introducing [a plant cell with] the ~~gene~~^{DNA molecule} of claim 1 into a plant cell; and regenerating [a plant body from] the plant cell [having the introduced gene] into a transgenic plant.

4S. (Amended). A method according to claim 3, wherein the plant [belongs to] is a dicotyledon.

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5B. (Amended). A method according to claim *5*, wherein the plant [belongs to] is a member of the Solanaceae family.

6B. (Amended). A method according to claim *5*, wherein the plant [belongs to] is a member of the *Petunia* genus.

Please add new claims 10-21, as follows.

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10. (Added). A gene comprising DNA which is selected from the group consisting of

- a) DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence from the 190th position to the 807th position of a nucleotide sequence represented in SEQ. ID NO. 1, and
- b) DNA which hybridizes to DNA of a) under stringent conditions, and encodes a transcription factor capable of altering characters of a plant in the same manner as DNA of a).

11. (Added). A gene encoding a transcription factor which is selected from the group consisting of

- i) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence from the 1st position to the 206th position of an amino acid sequence represented in SEQ. ID NO. 2, or
- ii) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids of i) are subjected to deletion, substitution, or addition, and being capable of altering characters of a plant in the same manner as the transcription factor of i), wherein said amino acid sequence includes CSFKREFRSAQALGGHMNVH and has more than 37% of amino acid sequence homology in the full-length amino acid sequence compared with the amino acid sequence of i).

9B. (Added) A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps of:

introducing the *DNA molecule* of claim 2 into a plant cell; and

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regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant.

of:
13. (Added). A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps
introducing the gene of claim 10 into a plant cell; and
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant.

of:
14. (Added). A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising the steps
introducing the gene of claim 11 into a plant cell; and
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant.

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10~~15~~. (Added). A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim ~~12~~⁹.

16. (Added). A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 13.

17. (Added). A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 14.

Sub C2
18. (Added). A method for altering characters of a plant, comprising steps of:
introducing the gene of claim 1 into a plant cell; and
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant, wherein the characters of a
plant include one selected from the group consisting of a height of a plant and a length of an
internode.

19. (Added). A method for altering characters of a plant comprising steps of:
introducing the gene of claim 2 into a plant cell; and
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant, wherein the characters of a
plant include one selected from the group consisting of a height of a plant and a length of an
internode.

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